



PREVENTION EFFECTIVENESS PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

- Prevention Effectiveness (PE) is the systematic assessment of the effect of public health policies, programs, and practices on health outcomes and costs.
- Policy and programmatic decisions are based on sound economic information. PE studies are able to supply this necessary information. PE directly contributes to fiscal accountability and stewardship of public funds by providing sound economic analysis.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

The three cornerstones of the PE program include training, technical assistance, methods development, and the systematic review of economic evaluations. The program accomplishments relate to these cornerstones:

- In 1995, CDC established a PE Fellowship Program. This 2-year post-doctoral program for economists, health services researchers, industrial engineers, and other scientists, concentrates on applied studies in public health economics and decision-making.
- Each year, about 145 CDC staff and Epidemic Intelligence Service officers attend PE methods courses.
- CDC continues to conduct collaborative research on consumer demand for food safety with the University of Maine, Ohio State University, and the University of Maryland.
- The fellowship has allowed CDC to produce more than 200 studies on PE, economic evaluation, and program evaluation on the costs of West Nile virus outbreak and response to immunization of healthcare workers for smallpox.
- The program has completed Volume I of the Web-based Economic Evaluation Course.
- CDC published *Prevention Effectiveness: A Guide to Decision Analysis and Economic Evaluation* in 1996, and the second edition in 2003. This book is used as a primer in the CDC PE course and also has extensive appeal to the larger health and public health communities.
- About 40 reviews of economic evaluations of interventions recommended by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services have been completed by the program.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Broadening the scope of economics at CDC will assist in

- Addressing the economics of information.
- Offering better support to the public health infrastructure.
- Improving standard setting and regulations.
- Establishing networks and system properties.
- Assisting the government in preparing and responding to infectious diseases or catastrophic risks, and applying what is learned to develop a new discipline: Public Health Economics.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/program

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